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Attorneys for Defendant Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JULIO & SONS COMPANY,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA ,

Defendant.

08 CV 03001(RJH)(DCF)

ANSWER AND DEFENSES OF TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America ("Travelers"), by its counsel, Boundas, Skarzynski, Walsh & Black, LLC, respond to the Complaint filed by Plaintiff Julio & Sons Company ("JSC") as follows:

#### **The Parties**

- 1. Travelers is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in paragraph 1.
- 2. Travelers admits that it is an insurance company, that it is incorporated in Connecticut, that its principal place of business is in Connecticut and that it conducts business within the State of New York and this judicial district. Travelers denies the remaining allegations of paragraph 2.

#### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

- 3. Paragraph 3 alleges legal conclusions to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 3.
- 4. Paragraph 4 alleges legal conclusions to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 4.

#### **Facts**

- 5. Travelers admits that it issued insurance policy number 104468586 to Julio Investors LLC, the "Parent Corporation," for the Policy Period of September 1, 2006 to September 1, 2007 (the "Policy"). Travelers denies that the Policy attached to the Complaint is a complete and accurate copy of the Policy and refers to the Policy for the true and accurate terms thereof. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that JSC is a "Subsidiary," as that term is defined in the Policy, of Julio Investors, LLC, and that JSC is an "Insured Organization" as that term is defined in the Policy. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that each of Rick Levitt, Buster Glosson, Bill Tillet, Greg Morris and Robert Reale are, in certain circumstances, "Insured Persons." as that term is defined in the Policy. Travelers denies, upon information and belief, that Robert Glaser is an Insured Person. Travelers lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remainder of the allegations in paragraph 5.
- 6. Travelers admits that pursuant to all of its terms, conditions and limitations, the Policy provides coverage for Claims first made during the Policy Period incepting on September 1, 2006 and expiring on September 1, 2007. Travelers admits that paragraph 6 of the Complaint has accurately quoted certain portions of the Policy but Travelers denies the characterization of the Policy set forth in paragraph 6 of the Complaint, avers that the Policy speaks for itself as to its terms and refers to the Policy for all of its terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions.

- 7. Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 7 of the Complaint, avers that the Policy speaks for itself as to its terms and refers to the Policy for all of its terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions.
- 8. Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 8 of the Complaint, avers that the Policy speaks for itself as to its terms and refers to the Policy for all of its terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions.
- 9. Travelers admits that paragraph 9 of the Complaint accurately quotes a portion of the Policy but denies the characterization of the Policy set forth in paragraph 9 of the Complaint, avers that the Policy speaks for itself as to its terms and refers to the Policy for all of its terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions.

#### • The RRGC Suit

- 10. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that in or about February 2007, Retail and Restaurant Growth Capital, L.P. ("RRGC") filed a suit in Dallas County District Court against JSC, Robert Glaser ("Glaser") and three additional named defendants. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that the RRGC suit included allegations of breach of fiduciary duties and negligent misrepresentation among other allegations. Travelers lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remainder of the allegations in paragraph 10.
- 11. Travelers admits that it sent a letter dated March 7, 2007 in which it acknowledged receipt of the RRGC suit and that paragraph 11 of the Complaint has accurately quoted a portion of the letter sent by Travelers dated March 7, 2007, but denies the characterizations of that letter contained in Paragraph 11 and refers to the March 7, 2007 letter for the contents thereof.

- 12. Travelers denies that its March 7, 2007 letter contained an admission that the RRGC suit alleged Wrongful Acts. Travelers admits that it sent a letter dated October 5, 2007 in which Travelers raised and reserved its rights with regard to certain issues related to coverage and advised that based on available information it must disclaim coverage for the RRGC suit. Travelers denies the characterizations of its October 5, 2007 letter contained in Paragraph 12 and refers to the October 5, 2007 letter for the contents thereof.
- 13. Paragraph 13 asserts legal conclusions to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 13. Travelers lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to whether or not there is a contract between RRGC and Glaser and avers that the remainder of the last sentence of paragraph 13 asserts legal argument to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, the allegations are denied.
  - 14. Travelers denies the allegations of Paragraph 14.
- 15. Travelers denies that it "abandoned its Insureds." Travelers is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remainder of the allegations in paragraph 15.
  - 16. Travelers denies the allegations of Paragraph 16.

#### • The Shashy/Green Suit

- 17. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that on or about June 19, 2007, Adbdo Joseph Sashy ("Shashy") and Gerald Green ("Green") filed a suit in Dallas County District Court that purported to be an individual and shareholder derivative suit on behalf of JSC.
- 18. Travelers admits that defendants named in the suit by Shashy and Green include JSC, Julio Investors LLC, Glaser, Rick Levitt, Buster Glosson, Bill Tillet, Greg Morris and

Robert Reale as well as three additional entity defendants. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that JSC and Julio Investors LLC are "Insureds" as that term is defined in the Policy. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that each of Rick Levitt, Buster Glosson, Bill Tillet, Greg Morris and Robert Reale are, in certain circumstances, "Insured Persons." as that term is defined in the Policy. Travelers denies, upon information and belief, that Robert Glaser is an Insured Person.

- 19. Travelers admits, upon information and belief, that the Shashy and Green suit includes allegations of breach of fiduciary duties among other allegations. Travelers denies that all alleged breaches of duties were allegedly by an Insured Person in that capacity.
- 20. Travelers admits that it sent a letter dated October 5, 2007 in which Travelers raised and reserved its rights with regard to certain issues related to coverage and advised that based on available information it must disclaim coverage for the suit by Shashy and Green. Travelers denies the characterizations of its letter contained in Paragraph 20 and refers to the October 5, 2007 letter for the contents thereof.
- 21. Travelers denies that it abandoned its insured and denies that the legal fees referenced are Travelers' responsibility. Travelers is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations of paragraph 21 of the Complaint.
  - 22. Travelers denies the allegations of Paragraph 22.
- 23. Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 23 concerning the terms of the Policy and denies the proffered explanation concerning its analysis of the relevance of collusion. The remainder of Paragraph 23 alleges legal conclusions to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 23.

## **Count One: Declaratory Judgment Concerning the RRGC Suit**

2	4.	Travelers	restates	its	answers	to	Paragraphs	1	through	23	as	if	fully	set	forth
herein.															

- 25. Denied.
- 26. Denied.

## **Count Two: Declaratory Judgment Concerning the Shashy/Green Suit**

- 27. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 26 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 28. Denied.
  - 29. Denied.

## **Count Three: Breach of Contract in Connection with the RRGC Suit**

- 30. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 29 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 31. Denied.
  - 32. Denied.
  - 33. Denied.

# Count Four: Breach of Contract in Connection with the Shashy/Green Suit

- 34. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 33 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 35. Denied.
  - 36. Denied.

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## **Count Five: Breach of Duty of Prompt Payment in Connection with the RRGC Suit**

	38.	Cravelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 37 as if fully set forth
herein.		
	39.	Denied.
	40.	Denied.
	41.	Denied.

#### **Count Six:**

### Breach of Duty of Prompt Payment in Connection with the Shashy/Green Suit

43. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 42 as if fully set forth herein.

44. Denied.

Denied.

42.

- 45. Denied.
- 46. Denied.
- 47. Denied.

#### **Count Seven:**

#### Bad Faith Refusal to Advance Defense Costs in Connection with the RRGC Suit

- 48. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 47 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 49. Denied.
  - 50. Denied.
  - 51. Denied.

#### **Count Eight:**

#### Bad Faith Refusal to Advance Defense Costs in Connection with the Shashy/Green Suit

- 52. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 51 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 53. Denied.
  - 54. Denied.
  - 55. Denied.

#### <u>Count Nine:</u> Statutory Attorney's Fees

- 56. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 55 as if fully set forth herein.
- 57. Paragraph 57 alleges legal conclusions to which no response is required but, to the extent a response is required, Travelers denies the allegations of paragraph 57.
  - 58. Denied.

## **Count Ten: Permanent Injunction**

- 59. Travelers restates its answers to Paragraphs 1 through 58 as if fully set forth herein.
  - 60. Denied.

#### **Jury Demand**

61. Travelers requests trial by jury.

WHEREFORE, Travelers denies that JSC is entitled to the relief it seeks and respectfully requests the Court to enter an Order: (1) dismissing the Complaint with prejudice; (2) denying

all relief sought by the Complaint; (3) awarding Travelers its costs and attorney's fees; and (4) providing such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

#### First Defense

1. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

#### **Second Defense**

- 2. Coverage is not available for the RRGC suit as against Robert Glaser because: (a) upon information and belief, he is not an "Insured Person" as that term is defined in the Policy; and/or (b) he is not sued for conduct in his capacity as an "Insured Person" as that term is defined in the Policy.
- 3. With respect to the Directors and Officers Liability Coverage Part included in the Policy, Section II. DEFINITIONS. C., as amended by Endorsement provides in relevant part:
  - D. "Insured Person(s)," either in the singular or the plural, means any one or more past, present, or future:
    - (1) duly elected or appointed director, officer, or member of the board of managers, including any natural person serving in a comparable capacity outside of the United States:
    - (2) in-house legal counsel; or
    - (3) member of the staff, faulty or any duly constituted committee;

Of the Insured Organization.

Insured Person, either in the singular or the plural, also means any one or more past, present, or future Employee serving the Insured Organization in a capacity other than one enumerated above but (a) only while acting within the scope of his or her employment and (b) only if such Employee is included as a co-defendant in such Claims contemporaneously with or subsequent to the naming of an Insured Person serving the Insured Organization in a capacity enumerated above.

- 4. The RRGC Complaint does not allege that Glaser was a director, officer, or member of the board of managers of JSC or any Insured Organization.
- 5. Despite request and JSC's contractual duty under the Policy to provide this information, at no time has Travelers been advised by JSC that Glaser was or is a director, officer or member of the board of managers of JSC or any Insured Organization.

#### **Third Defense**

- 6. Coverage is not available for the RRGC suit as against JSC as, coverage could only be available to JSC pursuant to the terms of the Policy's Directors and Officers Liability Coverage Part, Insuring Agreement (B)(2) but Section III. Exclusions. A.11.e., applies to exclude the RRGC suit from such coverage.
  - 7. Section III. Exclusions. A.11.e. provides as follows:

#### III. <u>EXCLUSIONS.</u>

- A. This Coverage Part shall not apply to, and the Company shall have no duty to defend or to pay, advance or reimburse Defense Expenses for, any Claim:
- 11. with respect to Insuring Agreement B.2. only:
- e. for or arising out of or in consequence of any actual or alleged liability of the Insured Organization under any express contract or agreement; for the purposes of this exclusion, an "express contract or agreement" is an actual agreement among the contracting parties, the terms of which are openly stated in distinct or explicit language, either orally or in writing, at the time of its making;

#### **Fourth Defense**

8. The Shashy/Green Complaint is excluded from coverage pursuant to Section III.A.8. of the Policy because it is brought by or on behalf of, or in the right of Insureds as that term is defined by the Policy.

9. Section III.A.8. of the Policy provides:

#### III. <u>EXCLUSIONS.</u>

- A. This Coverage Part shall not apply to and the Company shall have no duty to defend or to pay, advance or reimburse Defense Expenses for, any Claim:
- 8. by or on behalf of, or in the name or right of, any Insured; provided, however, that this exclusion shall not apply to:
- a. any derivative action by or on behalf of, or in the name or right of, the Insured Organization brought by a security holder of the Insured Organization, and brought and maintained independently of, and without the assistance, participation or intervention of any Insured;
- b. any Claim in the form of a crossclaim, third party claim or other claim for contribution or indemnity by an Insured Person and which is part of or results directly from a Claim which is not otherwise excluded by the terms of this Coverage Part; or
- c. any Claim brought or maintained by any Insured Person for any actual or alleged Wrongful Termination of an Insured Person;

#### Fifth Defense

- 10. As each of the RRGC suit and/or the Shashy/Green suit allege intentional and or fraudulent acts, conversion, and/or statutory theft, any coverage would be barred or limited by the terms of Section III.B.1. of the Policy, as amended by Endorsement, which provides:
  - B. The Company shall have no duty to pay Loss, other than Defense Expenses, for any Claim:
  - 1. for any Claim based upon, arising out of, or in any way relating to, directly or indirectly, any Insured:
    - a. committing any intentionally dishonest or fraudulent act or omission;
    - b. committing any willful violation of any statute, rule or law, provided, that this subparagraph b. will not apply to any Claim against Insured Persons for a Wrongful Employment Practice; or

c. gaining any profit, remuneration or advantage to which such Insured was not legally entitled;

Subparagraphs a. and b. above shall not apply unless a judgment or other final adjudication establishes that such Insured committed such intentional, dishonest or fraudulent act, or willful violation;

#### **Sixth Defense**

11. To the extent that either the RRGC action and/or Shashy/Green action asserts claims against any individual defendant based on alleged breaches of duties in their capacity other than as Insured Persons of an Insured Organization, coverage is not available under the Policy.

#### **Seventh Defense**

12. To the extent that either the RRGC action and/or Shashy/Green action asserts claims covered under any other insurance policy, coverage under the Policy would only apply as excess over such insurance.

#### **Eighth Defense**

13. Plaintiff is not entitled to advancement of defense expenses in any event as it has not complied with conditions precedent to coverage under the Policy.

#### Ninth Defense

14. To the extent that the Shashy/Green action seeks statutory damages for theft, coverage is barred or limited as the Directors and Officers Liability Coverage Part of the Policy provides that "Loss" covered thereunder, *inter alia*, "shall not include civil or criminal fines; sanctions; liquidated damages; payroll or other taxes; penalties; the multiplied portion of any multiplied damage award; or damages or types of relief deemed uninsurable under applicable law."

#### **Tenth Defense**

15. To the extent that the RRGC action and/or Shashy/Green action seeks disgorgement by their respective defendants, coverage is barred or limited by applicable law and policy.

#### **Eleventh Defense**

16. To the extent that the RRGC action and/or Shashy/Green action seeks punitive damages, coverage may barred or limited by applicable law and policy.

#### **Twelfth Defense**

17. JSC is not entitled to coverage under the Policy as a matter of contract and law because it seeks indemnification for matters outside the scope of the coverage afforded by the Policy. Travelers expressly reserves all of its rights to enforce any and all of the contractual limitations on the scope of its coverage.

#### **Thirteenth Defense**

18. JSC is not entitled to coverage under the Policy as a matter of contract and law because it seeks indemnification for matters that fall within one or more of the limiting terms, conditions or exclusions of the Policy. Travelers expressly reserves all of its rights to enforce any and all such term, condition or exclusion.

WHEREFORE, Travelers denies that JSC is entitled to the relief it seeks and respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order: (1) dismissing the Complaint with prejudice; (2) denying all relief sought by the Complaint; (3) awarding Travelers its costs and attorney's fees; and (4) providing such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: New York, New York May 9, 2008

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